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THE

PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S
USERS GROUP
NEWS LETTER
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VOLUME 8   **   NUMBER 12

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DECEMBER   1990

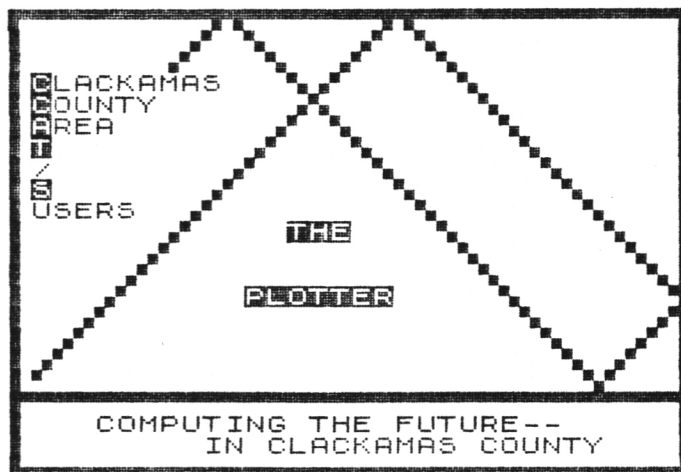**********************************

MEETING

The DECEMBER meeting will be:

on: FRI., DEC 14, 1990

meeting open at: 8:00 P.M.
in: JACK ARMSTRONG RESIDENCE
     1624 S. E. INSLEY ST.
     OREGON CITY SHOPPING CENTER
     235-6244

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WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS ISSUE

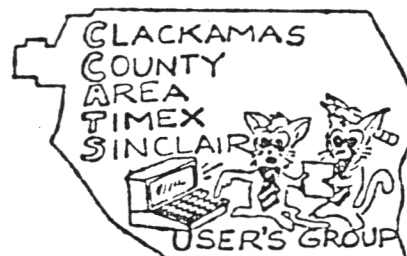COMPUTING THE FUTURE--
IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY

EDITORIAL

It was evident at the November meeting, such as it was, not many of our members take a meeting seriously. There were no officers in evidence, and except for the Treasurer and Vice Chairman, there appears to be no communication effort to let someone know that a member would be absent.

It has been annouced that in our newsletter that nominations are held at the November meeting and election would be at the December meeting. Now nominations will take place at the Decmember meeting if 10 members show up. If not then we will just have to put off nominations until that number attend a meeting. The alternative is to take a quarum of the paid up members at the February meeting and go on from there.

If we cannot put together an effective slate of officers to guide our organization in 1991, then we are doomed as a viable group. In fact, I see no reason to spend my time and effort to put together a newsletter of any type if all the members sit back and only want an

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unstructured get together. In other word, an unguided group who just want to get together once a month and want to talk to each other. If it comes to this, there should be no reason for dues as there will be no expenses. Nor will there be need for a treasuerer or a secretary. Obviously, without a newsletter we will have no exchange with other user groups. There will be no subscribers. There will be no way to inform people of pertinent information, such as meetings, what other groups are doing, available supplies and programs, etc, unless they get to a gathering. And where will we meet? I am sure the Bank people will require someone to be responsible for the room. I am the one who makes the room reservation, and I am the one who signs the contract each month for the use of the room and being responsible for its condition and closing.

Granted that the November newsletter gave the meeting date as Friday the 14th. Apparently no one called Rod for a confirmation of either the date or day. One member to my knowledge assumed the meeting would be on Friday 16th. At least a third of the members were aware that one or the other was in error. They showed up on Friday 9th. Incidently the second Friday is on the 14th in December when we meet at Jack Armstrong's home.

The next couple of meetings will give members a chance to show their bonefide interest in our organization. MAKE THE EFFORT!

THE EDITOR

NOVEMBER MEETING NOTES

As only six members put in an appearance and one had to leave shortly, there was no official meeting, partly as there was no elected officer.

Discussions took place on various subjects, not necessarily in the following order, but as I recall the topics, again, not complete.

The error in the publishing of the meeting date was mentioned. Those in attendance saw no reason why this produced the low attendance.

D.S. Lewis finally had a chance to do some explaining about his pet subject, assembler language programming (it is a language). He did comment that in the last few years he has become aware that BASIC language does have some uses in some cases.

Dick put in a few words about programming in GWBASIc (or BASICA) when working with MS-DOS. He has found a few commands in the GWBASIC manual that pertain to disk drive control, as well as how to switch back and forth between GWBASIC and MS-DOS.

Note was made of today's advertising for the present state of the art computers in which much is made of the built-in programs now available (on chip). Having the operating system immediately available at turn-on is the big thing. What do you know, just what Sinclair has been doing since the ZX 80 computer!

Jack Armstrong extended an invitation from he and his wife Maxine to have the December meeting at their home. See the article in this issue for details.

There was some discussion of transmitting ASCII code files between different kinds of computers. Lewis stated that he just used serial ports and set the correct baud rate to make successful transmissions. He was able to do this for all of his computers, from a North Star to a TRS-100.

The game program for GWBASIC in the November issue was declaired to be a stacked game as there was no way to beat the computer. If the reader will look at that program, it will be noted that the computer always has a certain sequence it follows to win. In fact, there isn't even a statement declairing the operator to be a winner! What a deal.

Dick Wagner

BITS & BYTES

by: ROD GOWEN

Heard any TS related news lately? Did you get any information in the mail from other users, user groups, or vendors that may be of interest to our readers? If so, why not share it with us? We need all of the help that we can get. Please send any info that you might have to: Rod Gowen, C/O CCAT/S, 1419 1/2 7th Street, Oregon City, OR 97045, or, phone in at: 503/655-7484, NOON - 10 PM weekdays. I know that the entire user group will appreciate it!

NOVEMBER MEETING-

Our regular meeting for November was not very well attended. I had to miss my first meeting in 8 years and it seems as though all but the real "hard-core" decided that the yearly nominating meeting was the one that they could afford to miss. Maybe a few of you missed it on account of the meeting date being printed wrong in the last newsletter? I know that this was the reason for at least one of you missing it. A couple of our members are in Arizona, so they are excused. One had another engagement but managed to show up for a few minutes. That left 5 of our most active members with ABSOL- UTELY NO OFFICERS IN SIGHT! Therefore, they sat and talked for a while and left. No meeting, no nom- inations were made. We hope to make nominations and elect the new officers as needed at the December meeting if enough folks show up, otherwise it will have to be done in January. We may have to settle for only a couple of officers - a Chair- man and maybe Vice Chairman. It seems as though the Secretary is becoming one and the same with our newsletter editor. Maybe we can eliminate this post and prevail on Dick to continue to take notes at the meetings? I will continue on as Treasurer. Bob will continue as Public Relations Officer and our librarians are volunteer as well. It seems that all we will need then is the top two officers. Any volun- teers? Step right up!

UPDATES MAGAZINE- HAS ARRIVED! The

October issue just arrived here today! It is a real good looking issue. Most of you who are subscribers should have or will receive yours by this time. If you are not a subscriber, -GET WITH IT! SUBSCRIBE NOW! For information, write us here and we will give you the particulars.

DECEMBER MEETING-

is to be held at the home of Jack Armstrong on December 14th, at about 8 PM. It seems that the 5 members at the November meeting made the decision to hold it there instead of our regular meeting room. If any of you were planning to bring anything for "show 'n' tell", be sure to call Jack to check on what he can accomodate. Phone 235-6244 in the evenings 7-9 PM.

MERRY CHRISTMAS-

and HAPPY HOLIDAYS to all of our readers! We hope to keep you up with all the news we can find to print in 1991 as in the past! See you later!

A PLEA FOR HELP!

This letter was received by RMG and we thought that perhaps others of you out there had the same feelings? If so, how many of you have done a program conversion for the Larken system and would perhaps be interested in sharing your experiences with others? Both THE PLOTTER and RMG UPDATES could use this kind of information to keep interest alive in the 2068 system! This is what we are all about! Helping one another! Send those articles in to the address found on this publication.

October 27, 1990

Dennis N. Sylvestri
256 Lloyd Street
New Haven, CT 06513

RMG Enterprises
1419 1/2 7th Street
Oregon City, OR 97045

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Dear Sirs,

Here is a subject that perhaps you could address in future RMG UPDATES. How about helping with the conversion of programs from tape to disk. (Larken DOS) I would like to see this type of info for some of the more advanced type of programs, where you have multiple LOADs. Step by step instructions could be provided telling just what changes need to be made and how to implement them. Perhaps one program a month could be hi-lighted, starting with the Zebra Card, Banner and Sign Designer programs.

I know that this would be helpful to me as well as others. I still have a lot of programs on tape, that, because of the multiple LOADs and program complexity, I am unable to convert.

Thank you,
(singed)Dennis N. Sylvestri

What Is A Newsletter?
by: Rod Gowen

A NEWSLETTER by definition is a LETTER that delivers NEWS, is it not? When used in conjunction with a club or group of some sort, it usually describes the vehicle through which the members of said group or club are kept informed as to WHAT happened at the last meeting or affair AND WHEN and WHERE the next meeting is to be held. Is this your idea of what a newsletter is supposed to be? If not, it should be.

I direct my comments in this article to all of you "newsletter editors" out there who evidently think that the sole function of a "newsletter" is to put information not relevant to your local group into the hands of as many people in other parts of the country or world as possible. I am NOT saying that the job is easy! On the contrary! It is a very difficult job, especially when you end up doing most of the work yourself. It also appears as though, if they do not have enough material to fill 8, 10 or even 16 pages each and every month, that they are reluctant to put out ANY pages! HEY! I KNOW HOW MUCH WORK A NEWSLETTER IS! After all, I was the editor and almost sole contributor to THE PLOTTER for almost 4 years. This is, to say the least, a "thankless" task! If I could lessen my workload, I did! And how can you lessen your workload? If no one sees fit to contribute material to publish, how can you publish it? Why not just put out fewer pages? SIMPLE, isn't it? I would have gone to putting out 1 page if need be. Just enough to tell the members when and where the next meeting is to be and perhaps what happened at the last get together, IF that information had been forwarded to me. After all, isn't that what a "newsletter" if for?
I think that a lot of the editors out there are afraid that, if they do not fill their respective newsletters with new and innovative material each and every issue, they will lose readership. SO WHAT! If the "readership" cannot contribute, then they have no right to complain about what they see in the newsletter! If 2 or 3 members of the user group are keeping the newsletter going, then it is those 2 or 3 who dictate the editorial policy and, possibly, even the direction that the group is headed. A viable group can only continue to be "fresh" and active if there are more that 2 or 3 active members! When those 2 or 3 "burn out", the group "dies". If each of the readers and members of the various user groups would take a moment or two to jot down a hint, a tip, an experience or print a listing of some small routine or program that they have worked out and send it to their respective newsletter editor, we would have a virtual "avalanche" of material suitable for publishing! You cannot worry about whether or not someone else has already done it before, or whether it will be of interest to one or to 100 people! If it helps just 1 person, then it serves its purpose! Just think how nice it would have been if you had been able to "read all about it" and been saved the bother of working out the problem yourself! BUT WAIT! Then

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you would not have learned the lesson as well as you did! Now share that learning process with those who may NOT be able to "work it out" for themselves. This, after all, is the real reason for the very existance of the user group in the first place, is it not? A group of folks with similar interests banding together to pool knowledge and expertise and to share it with those who need it?

As you can tell, I am definitely NOT in favor of "bi-monthly" or "quarterly" newsletters UNLESS your group meets with the same regularity! If you meet monthly, then it is the duty of the newsletter to keep you posted of meeting times and places on a monthly basis. If that means that someone in the group (secretary, perhaps?) has to send out a postcard at the appropriate time, so be it! Barring this, the group should then discontinue calling the publication a "newsletter" and put it out "bi-monthly" or "quarterly" as a club "magazine". After all, if it is not putting timely information about the groups' meeting times and minutes of the last meeting in the hands of the members of the group on the same schedule as your group meets, then it fails the definition of a newsletter!

(NOTE: This article does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of CCAT/S or the editor of THE PLOTTER. They are entirely my own views and personal opiniions.)

MIKE'S NOTEBOOK
By: Michael J. Di Rienzo

(NOTE: REPRINTING OR REPRODUCING THIS COLUMN WITHOUT THE EXPRESSED WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE AUTHOR IS HEREBY PROHIBITED. FOR PERMISSION, WRITE THE AUTHOR IN CARE OF THIS PUBLICATION.)

Sinclair BASIC graphics commands PLOT and DRAW have several disadvantages and shortcomings. One of them is that they only address a 256 X 176 pixel screen and cannot draw to the bottom two character lines. Another is that the PLOT command requires absolute coordinate pairs but the DRAW command needs relative offset pairs. This requires a conversion somewhere in the program. This months utility will provide three graphics commands (PLOT, DRAW, and LINE) that will draw to the entire 256 by 192 pixel screen, and all x,y coordinate pairs required are the absolute type. The other change is that the coordinate 0, 0 is at the upper-left corner of the screen. The command syntax is as follows: PRINT USR plot;AT xs,ys PRINT USR draw;AT xe,ye PRINT USR line;AT xs,ys;xe,ye All "X" values are 0 to 255, and all "Y" values are 0 to 191. The variables xs=x start, ys=y start, xe=x end, and ye=y end. As usual, DRAW requires that it be preceeded by PLOT which establishes the starting x,y coordinate. Next, Draw sets the end coordinate pair and connects them with a line. The new command, LINE, requires two coordinate pairs. The first pair sets the x,y start of the line and the second pair sets the end x,y pair and connects them with a line. Study the included example program to see how to use them. Note that the syntax of the new commands is important in terms of commas and semicolons. If you make a syntax error with the new commands, you will get a "Nonsense in Basic" error message. Note that you may use attribute commands in the usual way because each command is called using, "PRINT USR...". After the design is drawn and the border is plotted, press any key to draw another demo. Be sure to RUN the program from line 300 to POKE in the CODE. You can use RUN after that. The CODE is not relocatable and is 249 bytes long if you want to SAVE it as a separate CODE file. A portion of the plot and draw routines were obtained from the "Advanced 2068 Machine Code", Volume 1, by Dr. Lloyd Dreger, and were enhanced a bit. I obtained this resource and others by Dr. Dreger from RMG ENTERPRISES. Have fun!

Happy TIMEXing...

"LINES"
By Michael J. Di Rienzo

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```
   10 RANDOMIZE : BORDER 0: PAPER
0: INK 1+RND*6: CLS : OUT 254,1
: LET plot=60987: LET line=60990
: LET draw=60994
   20 LET m=(RND*20)+30
   30 FOR e=10 TO 60 STEP .5
   40 LET r=e*88/m
   50 LET t=PI*100*e/m
   60 LET xe=128+1.2*r*COS t
   70 LET ye=96+r*SIN t
   80 IF ye<0 OR ye>191 OR xe<0 O
R xe>255 THEN GO TO 120
   90 IF e=10 THEN GO SUB 250
  100 GO SUB 240
  110 NEXT e
  120 FOR n=2 TO 253 STEP 2: PRIN
T USR plot;n,2: PRINT USR plot;n
,189: PRINT USR plot;2,n AND n<=
189: PRINT USR plot;253,n AND n<
=189: NEXT n
  130 PRINT USR line;0,0;255,0: P
RINT USR line;255,0;255,191: PRI
NT USR line;255,191;0,191: PRINT
 USR line;0,191;0,0
  140 PAUSE 0: RUN
  240 PRINT USR PLOT;xs,ys: PRINT
 USR DRAW;xe,ye
  250 LET xs=xe: LET ys=ye
  260 RETURN
  300 CLEAR 60820: LET t=0
  310 FOR n=60821 TO 61069
  320 READ a: POKE n,a: LET t=t+a
  330 NEXT n: IF t<>29525 THEN PR
INT FLASH 1;"Data Error! Recheck
 DATA lines": STOP
  340 RUN
  350 DATA 125,230,192,31,55,31,1
5,173,230,248,173,87,124,7,7,7,1
73,230,199,173,7,7,95,213,122,15
,15,15,230,3,246,88,87,237,75,14
3,92,26,169,160,169,18,209,124,2
30,7,71,4,62,254,15,16,253,71,58
,145,92,79,26,203,65,32,1,160,20
3,81,32,2,168,47,18,201
  360 DATA 1,0,1,0,197,205,149,23
7,193,17,1,1,120,148,48,4,21,21,
237,68,71,121,149,48,4,29,29,237
,68,79,176,200,121,184,229,98,10
7,34,221,237,46,0,56,4,101,107,7
2,71,34,223,237,96,120,203,63,11
1,125,129,56,3,184,56,8,144,111,
237,91,221,237,24,5,111,237,91,2
23,237,227,124,130,103,125,131,1
11,197,205,149,237,193,227,37,32
,220,225,201
  370 DATA 175,24,6,62,1,24,2,62,
2,50,176,92,17,117,33,225,167,23
7,82,32,250,213,58,176,92,254,2,
32,9,237,75,125,92,97,104,195,11
3,238,205,125,238,97,104,58,176,
92,254,1,40,4,205,149,237,201,22
```

```
9,205,125,238,120,65,79,225,205,
225,237,201,223,254,59,194,237,2
7,205,220,27,205,96,38,237,67,12
5,92,201
```

DECEMBER MEETING

Jack Armstrong and wife Maxine have extended an invitation to members, spouces, and friends to have the Dember meeting, Friday 14th at their home. This will require a later than usual meeting time. Jack prefers that people do not show up before 8:00 PM as they both work late in the day.

This is a nominatings meeting as there was not an official meeting in November. To make it easy, Dick Wagner offers to take the Secretary's position for 1991. That leaves only the Chairman and Vice Chairman positions to fill, unless someone else volunteers to run for the Secretary's position.

Maxine would appreciate some goodies to go along with coffee, tea, etc that will be served after the meeting. It would be a good idea to check with Maxine so we don't have 12 dozen donuts to look at. Anybody for home made cookies, muffins, mince meat pie?

Let's be courteous and call Maxine or Jack at 235-6244 and let them know Y or N about your attendance.

The Editor

To get to Jack's and Maxine's house for the meeting, if you are north of Insley, take McLoughlin south to 17th, exit right and go one long block to Insley and turn right. There is room for 3 or 4 cars in back from the alley between Insley and Harold. Street parking is available on both sides of Insley and on 17th and Milwaukie.
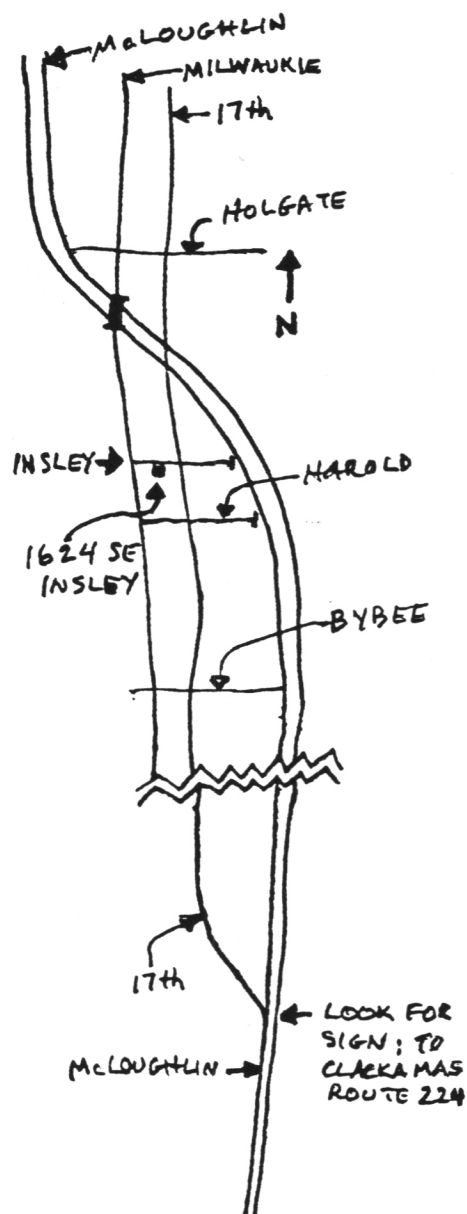If you are going to be coming from the south, you can come up McLoughlin to the left turn onto 17th which has a left turn with a traffic signal; it is marked with a sign to reach Sellwood and also Clackamas via Highway 224. It is

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17th and you follow it north to Insley. When you reach Harold, you can choose to come up the alley to your left or go on to Insley. The alley is halfway between Harold and Insley.

If you are coming from the east, you come west on Holgate which has an overpass over the railroad tracks just east of 17th. Turn left on 17th and go south to Insley or the alley just beyond. Note that there is a break in the map, so Tacoma is not shown.

BANK STATEMENT CHECKER

This program has been in our newsletter material file for a long time. It will work for the TS 1000 and 2068 computers. A neat way to balance that bank statement. Just key in the number of checks, and then amounts on the prompts.

THE EDITOR

THIS ROUTINE WILL PICK UP DOLLAR AMOUNTS AND SUBSCRIPT THEM IN THE FIRST LOOP AND THEN IN THE SECOND LOOP IT WILL ADD THEM UP.

THIS GIVES YOU A VERY POWERFUL TOOL IN PROGRAMMING.

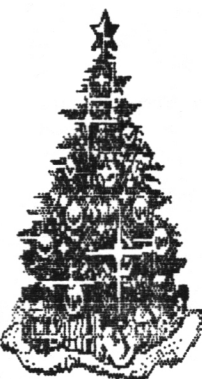JACK ARMSTONG'S PROGRAM WITH VARIATIONS

REVISIONS BY DICK WAGNER.

```
 10 LET CT=0
 20 PRINT : PRINT "HOW MANY CHE
CKS? ";
 21 REM
 30 INPUT N
 40 PRINT N
 50 DIM A(N)
 55 FOR K=1 TO N
 60 PRINT : PRINT "INPUT AMOUNT
OF EACH CHECK"
 70 INPUT A(K)
 80 PRINT A(K)
 90 NEXT K
 95 PRINT
100 FOR J=1 TO N
110 LET CT=CT+A(J)
115 PRINT CT
120 NEXT J
125 PRINT "_____"
130 PRINT CT;" THE TOTAL OF ";N
;" CHECKS."
200 STOP
```
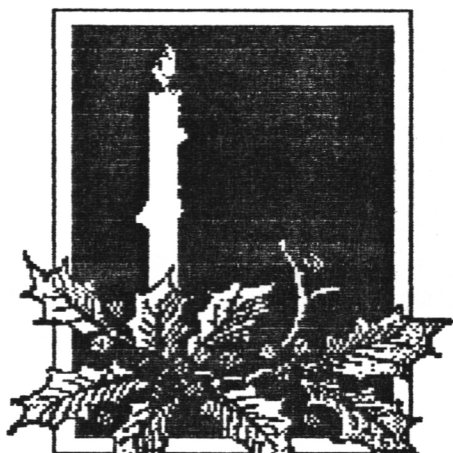

Happy Holidays

SANTAS SPECTACLES

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GRAPHICS BY: DOTTIE BUNDY
JACK DOHANY

Merry Christmas

GRAPHICS PRINTED WITH
JACK DOHANY'S GYPSY AND
WORDMASTER PROGRAMS

—NOTICE—

Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of members of the Clackamas County T/S User Group. Meeting minutes carry the consensus of members present at meeting. This newsletter nor staff will not be held liable for any damage or consequences due to following instructions, or review of products as contained in this newsletter.

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CCAT/S
1419 1/2 7TH Street
Oregon City, OR 97045

ROD GOWEN (TREASURER)
1419 1/2 7TH STREET
OREGON CITY, OR 97045
A0003:12<90/ML